

Appl. No.: 10/500,808

Amdt. Dated March 27, 2006

Response to Office Action Mailed November 1, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A stapler, comprising:

a clincher unit comprising a clincher for clinching legs of a staple driven out by a driver,

~~and~~ a holder which holds the clincher,

and at least one biasing member for biasing the holder in the clincher unit,

said holder being formed with guide surfaces which are slanted for guiding tips of the legs of said staple toward the clincher, wherein

said holder is ~~configured~~ mounted in the clincher unit so as to be movable in relative to the clincher unit through in response to press contact between the guide surface and the leg of the staple against a biasing force of said at least one biasing member when the leg is guided along the guide surface.

2. (Previously Presented) The stapler according to claim 1, further comprising a driver unit comprising said driver, wherein the driver unit and said clincher unit are vertically separated from each other.

3. (Previously Presented) The stapler according to claim 1, wherein said clincher has a pair of clincher members disposed rotatably relative to said holder, and disposed so that

positions of their rotating surfaces are deviated from each other, and a partition plate is disposed between the clincher members.

4. (Currently Amended) The stapler according to claim 1, wherein
said clincher unit comprises a clincher unit box of which a side opposing the driver is opened, and
said holder is disposed movably in the clincher unit box, and
said at least one biasing members are member is disposed between a ~~first wall of the~~ holder and a ~~first wall of the clincher unit box opposing said first wall of the holder, and between~~
~~a second wall of the holder and a second wall of the clincher unit box opposing said second wall~~
~~of the holder,~~
~~to bias said holder in directions pressing toward each other.~~

5-12. (Cancelled).

13. (New) The stapler according to claim 4, wherein
said at least one biasing member comprises at least two biasing members disposed
between a first wall of the holder and a first wall of the clincher unit box opposing said first wall
of the holder, and between a second wall of the holder and a second wall of the clincher unit box
opposing said second wall of the holder,

to bias said holder in directions pressing toward each other.

14. (New) The stapler according to claim 13, wherein said biasing members are
wave springs.

15. (New) The stapler according to claim 2, wherein said clincher has a pair of
clinchier members disposed rotatably relative to said holder, and disposed so that positions of
their rotating surfaces are deviated from each other, and a partition plate is disposed between the
clinchier members.

16. (New) The stapler according to claim 2, wherein
said clincher unit comprises a clincher unit box of which a side opposing the driver is
opened, and
said holder is disposed movably in the clincher unit box, and
said at least one biasing member is disposed between the holder and the clincher unit box.

17. (New) The stapler according to claim 16, wherein
said at least one biasing member comprises at least two biasing members disposed
between a first wall of the holder and a first wall of the clincher unit box opposing said first wall
of the holder, and between a second wall of the holder and a second wall of the clincher unit box
opposing said second wall of the holder,
to bias said holder in directions pressing toward each other.

18. (New) The stapler according to claim 3, wherein
said clincher unit comprises a clincher unit box of which a side opposing the driver is
opened, and
said holder is disposed movably in the clincher unit box, and
said at least one biasing member is disposed between the holder and the clincher unit box.

19. (New) The stapler according to claim 18, wherein
said at least one biasing member comprises at least two biasing members disposed
between a first wall of the holder and a first wall of the clincher unit box opposing said first wall
of the holder, and between a second wall of the holder and a second wall of the clincher unit box
opposing said second wall of the holder,
to bias said holder in directions pressing toward each other.

20. (New) The stapler according to claim 15, wherein

said clincher unit comprises a clincher unit box of which a side opposing the driver is opened, and

said holder is disposed movably in the clincher unit box, and

said at least one biasing member is disposed between the holder and the clincher unit box.

21. (New) The stapler according to claim 20, wherein

said at least one biasing member comprises at least two biasing members disposed between a first wall of the holder and a first wall of the clincher unit box opposing said first wall of the holder, and between a second wall of the holder and a second wall of the clincher unit box opposing said second wall of the holder,

to bias said holder in directions pressing toward each other.

22. (New) The stapler according to claim 17, wherein said biasing members are wave springs.

23. (New) The stapler according to claim 19, wherein said biasing members are wave springs.

24. (New) The stapler according to claim 21, wherein said biasing members are wave springs.